

10/619,777

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PC25131A

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 10 are pending.

Claims 1, 5, and 6 are currently amended.

***Restriction/Election***

In the Office Action, restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the inventions of groups I-VII, as defined therein, is required. Accordingly, Applicant hereby elects without traverse the invention of group II, claims 1-5, drawn to a combination comprising valdecoxib, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and an allosteric alkyne inhibitor of MMP-13 of Formula IC, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in claims 1-5, wherein exactly one of  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$ , and  $X_3$  is N, and the other two of  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$ , and  $X_3$  are C-R (not "C-R<sub>6</sub>" as recited in the Office Action), and there is no fused tricyclic ring system (i.e.,  $W_2$  and  $W_1$  are not taken together to form the diradical group  $W_2-W_1$  of formula  $W_3=X_4-N$ ), classified in class 544, subclass 279, for example.

Claim 1 is amended to delete non-elected subject matter. Claims 5 and 6 are amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 7-10 continue to depend from claim 6. Where claim 1 is subsequently found allowable, Applicant hereby requests rejoinder of claims 6-10 in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04 and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction between claim 1 and claims 6-10.

***Conclusion***

In view of the above remarks, Applicant requests consideration of claims 1-5 and, in the event that claim 1 is subsequently found allowable, consideration of claims 6-10.

Respectfully submitted,

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Claude F. Purchase, Jr.

Claude F. Purchase, Jr.  
Reg. No. 47,871  
Pfizer Inc.  
2800 Plymouth Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
Tel. (734) 622-1692  
Fax (734) 622-1553